

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant response. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 remain pending in the case. Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 are rejected. Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendments. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,483,262 by Izutani, hereinafter referred to as the "Izutani" reference, in view of United States Patent 5,756,941 by Snell, hereinafter referred to as the "Snell" reference, and further in view of United States Patent 5,845,161 by Schrok, et al., hereinafter referred to as the "Schrok" reference. Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17-21 and 23 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Izutani in view of Snell.

Independent Claims 1 and 10

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

A computer system comprising:

...

a non-mechanical detector for detecting said stylus in said slot, wherein said slot comprises a longitudinal opening for receiving said stylus;

....

Independent Claim 10 recites a similar limitations. Claims 3-9 that depend from independent Claim 1 and Claims 11 and 13-17 that depend from independent Claim 10 provide further limitations of the features of the present invention.

Izutani does not teach or suggest a computer system comprising a slot for receiving a stylus wherein the slot has a longitudinal opening for receiving said stylus. On the contrary, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder including an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion (see Izutani col. 3, lines 7-12; and Figures 2a-c, elements 2, 4 and 5). In particular, Applicants understand Izutani to teach an pen holder for holding an input pen between an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion.

As described in the present invention, a method and device are provided for detecting a stylus based on a non-mechanical detector. Specifically, the present invention as claimed recites the limitation of a computer system comprising a non-mechanical detector for detecting a stylus in a slot, wherein the slot has a longitudinal opening for receiving the stylus, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 10. Specifically, Figures 2A, 2B, 3, 7 and 8 illustrate a slot having a longitudinal opening for receiving the stylus.

In contrast, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder 2 including an upper pen holding portion 4 and a lower pen holding portion 5 (Figures 2a-c). The input pen 1 is held in between upper pen holding portion 4 and lower pen holding portion 5. In particular, pen holder 2 does not have a longitudinal opening for receiving input pen 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Izutani does not teach or suggest a slot having a longitudinal opening as claimed, because such a reading would render the claims of Izutani inoperable. In particular, the pen holder of Izutani would be inoperable with a longitudinal opening. For example, if either the upper pen holding portion or the lower pen holding portion were replaced with a longitudinal opening, the input pen would not be held on place, as only one support would remain. On the contrary, by requiring an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion, Izutani teaches away from such operation.

Moreover, the combination of Izutani and Snell fails to teach or suggest this claim limitation because Snell does not overcome the shortcomings of Izutani. Snell, alone or in combination with Izutani, does not show or suggest a computer system comprising a slot comprising a longitudinal opening for receiving a stylus. As described above, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor including a pen holder comprising an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion. Applicants understand Snell to teach retractable pen tether. In view of the claim limitation of a slot comprising a longitudinal opening for receiving a stylus not being shown or suggested in Snell, in combination with the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 10 overcomes the cited references and is therefore allowable over the combination of Izutani and Snell.

Furthermore, the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock fails to teach or suggest this claim limitation because Schrock does not overcome the shortcomings of the combination of Izutani and Snell. Schrock, alone or in combination with Izutani and Snell, does not show or suggest a computer system comprising a slot comprising a longitudinal opening for receiving a stylus. Applicants understand Schrock to teach a stylus based electronic annotation camera having a cavity for storing a stylus. However, as described above, Izutani is rendered inoperable by the cavity of Schrock, and thus teaches away from such a combination. In view of the claim limitation of a slot

comprising a longitudinal opening for receiving a stylus being taught away from
in Izutani, in combination with the above arguments, Applicants respectfully
submit that independent Claims 1 and 10 overcomes the cited references and
is therefore allowable over the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock.

Independent Claim 18

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 18
which recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to
(emphasis added):

A computer system comprising:

...

a case for supporting said processor, said memory unit,
said display screen and said digitizer, said case having a slot
located therein for receiving a hinge attached to a protective cover;

a non-mechanical detector for detecting positions of said
hinge within said slot;

....

Claims 19-24 that depend from independent Claim 18 provide further
limitations of the features of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that Izutani in combination with Snell and
Schrock does not show or suggest hinge devices, particularly hinge devices in
a protective cover for rotating to power up and place in a conservation mode a
processor, a display screen, and a digitizer as recited in independent Claim 18.
As mentioned above, Izutani teaches a pen-input type information processor

including a pen holder comprising an upper pen holding portion and a lower pen holding portion, Snell teaches a retractable pen tether, and Schrock teaches a stylus based electronic annotation camera. Nowhere does the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock teach or suggest a hinge and a protective cover, as recited in Claim 18. In view of the claim limitation a hinge attached to a protective cover not being shown or suggested in Izutani, Snell, or Schrock, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 18 overcomes the cited references and is therefore allowable over the combination of Izutani, Snell and Schrock.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23

Applicants respectfully assert that nowhere does the combination of Izutani and Snell teach, disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 10 and 18, and that these claims are thus in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the combination of Izutani and Snell also does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23. Claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 are dependent on allowable base Claim 1, Claims 14, 15 and 17 are dependent on allowable base Claim 10, and Claims 19-21 and 23 are dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims.

Claims 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 22

Claims 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Izutani and Snell in view of Schrock, further in view of United States Patent 6,100,538 by Ogawa et al. Claims 3 and 6 are dependent on allowable base Claim 1, Claims 11, 13 and 16 are dependent on allowable base Claim 10, and Claim 22 is dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 22 overcome the cited art and are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 8 and 24

Claims 8 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Izutani and Snell in view of Schrock, further in view of United States Patent 5,049,862 by Dao et al. Claim 8 is dependent on allowable base Claim 1 and Claim 24 is dependent on allowable base Claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8 and 24 overcome the cited art and are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

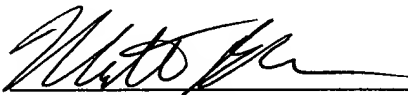
Based on the amendments and arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-24 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO L.L.P.

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Matthew J. Blecher
Registration No. 46,558

Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 938-9060

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a memory unit coupled to said bus;

a display screen coupled to said bus;

a digitizer coupled to said bus;

a case for supporting said processor, said memory unit, said display screen and said digitizer, said case having a slot located therein for receiving a stylus, wherein said slot comprises a longitudinal opening for receiving said stylus;

a non-mechanical detector for detecting said stylus in said slot;

a switch coupled to said non-mechanical detector for generating a signal to power up said processor, said display screen and said digitizer when said stylus is removed from said slot and wherein said switch is also for generating a signal to place said processor, said display screen and said digitizer into a power conservation mode when said stylus is inserted into said slot.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

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Examiner: Said, Mansour
Art Unit: 2673

10. (Twice Amended) In a computer system comprising a processor, a memory unit, a display screen and a digitizer, a method of using said computer system comprising the steps of:

a) detecting non-mechanically a user removing a stylus from a slot in a case, said case supporting said processor, said memory unit, said display screen and said digitizer, wherein said slot comprises a longitudinal opening for receiving said stylus;

b) responsive to said step a), automatically placing said processor, said display screen and said digitizer in a full power-up mode to power-up said computer system;

c) detecting non-mechanically a user inserting said stylus into said slot of said case;

d) responsive to said step c), automatically placing said processor, said display screen and said digitizer in a power conservation mode to power-down said computer system